United Nations A/64/233

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 November 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

Letter dated 5 November 2009 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Benin, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Philippines, Portugal, Slovenia, Timor-Leste and United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly of an additional item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) in support of the above request and a related draft resolution (annex II) to be adopted at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly are attached to the present letter.

We should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jean-Francis Régis **Zinsou**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Benin to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Claudia **Blum**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations

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(*Signed*) Jorge **Urbina**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Léo **Mérorès**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Nurbek **Jeenbaev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Hilario G. **Davide**, Jr.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations

(*Signed*) José Filipe Moraes **Cabral**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sanja **Štiglic**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Nelson **Santos**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Augustine P. **Mahiga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

1. The relevance and magnitude of international migration and the growing awareness of its importance in the economic, social, cultural or humanitarian debates within the United Nations framework led to the granting of observer status to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) by the General Assembly in 1992 (resolution 47/4), to the inclusion of IOM by the Assembly as a "standing invitee" in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for the coordination of humanitarian assistance the same year, and to the signature of the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and IOM in 1996. The Assembly, in its resolution 51/148 of 13 December 1996 on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration, took note with satisfaction of the conclusion of the Agreement; invited the Secretary-General to ensure that the needed cooperation and liaison between the secretariats of the two organizations was undertaken in order to ensure complementary actions; requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of IOM, to foster systematic consultations; and invited the specialized agencies and other organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the Director-General of IOM in order to initiate, maintain and increase consultation and programmes with IOM.

2. In resolution 51/148, however, the General Assembly did not establish a systematic and periodic reporting on IOM/United Nations cooperation, a practice in place for several other non-United Nations organizations. The initiative presented in the present explanatory memorandum is meant to fill this gap without adding to the number of reports submitted to the Assembly, as the reports on cooperation with non-United Nations organizations are consolidated into one report.

3. Since the conclusion of the Cooperation Agreement, in fact, the level and range of cooperation between the United Nations system and IOM has increased and diversified, covering both policy and operational levels. Similarly, over the last 12 years, States and other stakeholders have become increasingly aware of the challenges and opportunities presented by international migration. For these reasons, the establishment of a United Nations/IOM reporting mechanism would be useful, timely and constructive.

4. The collaboration of IOM with the United Nations system and its agencies has been further strengthened by the conclusion of memorandums of understanding with several departments, funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and, inter alia, by the membership in the Global Migration Group, a 14-member inter-agency group, meeting at the level of heads of agencies, which aims to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and the provision of more coherent and stronger leadership to improve policy and operational responses. This increasing operational collaboration that has evolved over the past decade and a half between IOM and a broadening range of United Nations entities has resulted in more frequent ad hoc inclusion of IOM in relevant United Nations processes. This has especially been the case in emergency and/or post-conflict rehabilitation situations, but also extends to a number of development-oriented initiatives and partnerships.

5. A score of non-United Nations organizations which have been granted the status of Permanent Observer to the United Nations are part of periodic reporting arrangements in the General Assembly. The areas of cooperation between those reporting organizations and the United Nations system are outlined and described in biennial consolidated reports prepared and submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General under the title "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations".

6. The draft resolution in annex II contemplates the establishment of a biennial IOM/United Nations reporting mechanism as part of the above-mentioned report, which would recognize the increasing cooperation that already exists between the two organizations while in no way changing the nature of the current institutional relationship.

7. In the light of the above, it would be of particular importance if the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to include in his report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations a section on cooperation between the United Nations and IOM. Considering the biennialization of the work of the Assembly and the fact that the next report of the Secretary-General will be submitted at the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly, it would be timely that the resolution in annex II be adopted at the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/4 of 16 October 1992, by which it granted observer status to the International Organization for Migration and invited that organization to participate in its sessions and work, as well as its resolution 51/148 of 13 December 1996 on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration,

Noting the desire of both organizations to consolidate and enhance the cooperation existing between them in the economic, social, humanitarian and administrative fields,

Convinced that the further strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

1. *Encourages* both the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration to strengthen the cooperation that already exists between the two organizations and further collaborate in matters of common interest;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, as part of the Secretary-General's consolidated report entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations";

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", a sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration".

United Nations A/64/234

General Assembly

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17 November 2009

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Sixty-fourth session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session

United Nations University

Letter dated 16 November 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

At its fifty-fifth session in December 2008, the Council of the United Nations University (UNU) adopted a proposal for UNU to build upon its existing joint graduate programmes and to develop and implement its own postgraduate degree programmes as part of the UNU strategic plan 2009-2012.

In order for the University to grant advanced academic degrees, a textural amendment to its Charter is required. This must be adopted by the General Assembly.

In accordance with article XII of the UNU Charter, I am writing to request that the General Assembly consider this amendment. Accordingly, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I request the inclusion of an additional item entitled "United Nations University" in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session. I also request that the matter be allocated to the Second Committee for its consideration.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, please find attached an explanatory memorandum justifying the amendments (annex I) and a draft resolution on the amendments (annex II).

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum on the award of postgraduate degrees by the United Nations University

1. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations University (UNU), the Secretary-General seeks the approval of the General Assembly to enable UNU to award master's degrees and doctorates, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions.

The rationale for the University's own postgraduate degree programmes

2. Today, universities are striving to become more global. UNU has the comparative advantage of being a global university within the framework of the United Nations. UNU has a mandate to create and share knowledge both within and outside the United Nations. It is now universally accepted that the most efficient transfer of knowledge is achieved through the participation of students in specialized master's degree and Ph.D. programmes involving a fully fledged master's thesis or Ph.D. dissertation.

3. By having their studies recognized and validated by a United Nations University degree, diploma or certificate, UNU postgraduate students will be better able (a) to help build and strengthen capacities, particularly in the developing countries; and (b) to contribute to the work of the United Nations system, development assistance agencies, government ministries and non-governmental organizations. This will be particularly important in relation to students from developing countries who face greater challenges when competing in the global market place.

Effect of UNU postgraduate programmes

4. The UNU Charter calls for UNU to have as a central objective of its research and training centres and programmes "the continuing growth of vigorous academic and scientific communities everywhere and particularly in the developing countries". UNU is mandated to "alleviate the intellectual isolation of persons in such communities in the developing countries which might otherwise become a reason for their moving to developed countries". UNU degree holders will be better placed to contribute to these important mandates.

5. UNU expects to initiate its own master's and Ph.D. programmes as from the latter part of 2010. The initial student population will be modest — from 20 to 40 master's/Ph.D. students. These students will undertake their studies within degree programmes situated at one of the 12 UNU high-level research and training centres and programmes dealing with issues of peace, security, environment, development and sustainability. The intake of students would gradually increase to approximately 250 annually. By 2020, UNU will have conferred master's and Ph.D. degrees on 2,000 students. Over the long term, their focused and practical educational experience at UNU will provide UNU students with a greater appreciation and understanding of the multilateral system, and enhanced opportunities to contribute from a variety of entry points to the work of the multilateral system.

How UNU postgraduate programmes will be implemented

6. UNU postgraduate programmes will be implemented at its institutes, which are located in both developed and developing countries. The UNU strategic plan 2009-2012 calls for all UNU institutes to be "twinned" — meaning having at least one component in a developing country and another in a developed country — by 2012. UNU master's degree and Ph.D. programmes being implemented at institutes co-located in a developing and a developed country will provide the University's postgraduate students with a unique and enriching experience during the period of their study with UNU.

7. UNU will implement its postgraduate degree programmes also in collaboration with universities located in close proximity to UNU institutes around the world. UNU programmes will be practically oriented, user-focused and of the highest quality and will offer opportunities for internship within a United Nations agency, development assistance agency or government ministry. They will build on the University's existing networks of scholars and academic institutions participating in UNU research programmes.

Financing UNU postgraduate degree programmes

8. UNU receives no subvention from the regular United Nations budget. As a voluntarily funded United Nations organization, the costs for UNU postgraduate degree programmes will be met from existing core resources as well as specific programme contributions from foundations, private sector entities and individuals. UNU will mobilize additional funding from outside sources to supplement the limited funding available for scholarships for students from developing countries. Funding would also be provided through tuition fees and other charges.

Conclusion

9. By endorsing the award of postgraduate degrees by UNU, the international community will help to reinforce the principle that education is a cornerstone for promoting "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

Annex II

Draft resolution

Amendments to the Charter of the United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2951 (XXVII) of 11 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the United Nations University, and 3081 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, by which it adopted the Charter of the United Nations University, and taking note of the resolutions adopted since then on the progress of the University,

Taking note of the resolution on the United Nations University adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its 182nd session, held in Paris in September 2009,

Taking note of the proposal adopted by the Council of the United Nations University at its fifty-fifth session in December 2008 for the United Nations University to build upon its existing joint graduate programmes and to develop and implement its own postgraduate degree programmes as a part of the United Nations University strategic plan 2009-2012,

Taking note of the proposal of the Secretary-General to amend the Charter of the United Nations University in accordance with article XII thereof, made after consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Council of the United Nations University,

1. *Approves* the following amendments to the Charter of the United Nations University:

(a) A new paragraph 8 shall be added to article I, to read as follows:

"8. The University shall grant and confer master's degrees and doctorates, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions under conditions laid down for that purpose in the statutes by the Council";

(b) A new paragraph 2 bis shall be added to article IX, to read as follows:

"2 bis. The costs of the postgraduate degree programmes of the University as referred to in article I, paragraph 8, above may also be met from tuition fees and related charges";

2. *Invites* the Council of the United Nations University to adopt such statutes as may be necessary to implement these amendments.

United Nations A/64/235

General Assembly

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19 November 2009

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Sixty-fourth session

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session

Observer status in the General Assembly for the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly

Letter dated 12 November 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly of an additional item entitled "Observer status in the General Assembly for the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum on the nature and description of the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached.

It would be very much appreciated if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Donatus K. **St. Aimee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Khalid Abdalrazag **Al Nafisee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Yuriy A. **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

I. Historical background

1. The Council of Presidents of the General Assembly was established in 1997 as a mechanism to coordinate the collective diplomatic and international experience of the former Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly with the aim of supporting the work of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, to further strengthen the multilateral system as the pre-eminent international mechanism to address the many global challenges faced by humankind, including sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights, among other areas. The Council emphasizes the paramount role of the General Assembly as the body of universality of the United Nations, consistent with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations pertaining to the functions and powers of the General Assembly.

II. Membership

2. The Council of Presidents consists of the former Presidents of the General Assembly as members of the Council; the President-in-Office of the General Assembly serves as an ex officio member.

III. Organizational structure

3. The Council of Presidents operates as a think tank which conducts independent analysis on international and organizational issues facing the General Assembly of the United Nations, and provides an autonomous perspective on resolving problems emanating from these issues.

4. The Council of Presidents is headed by a Chairman who is elected from among the member Presidents, and who serves for a period of three years. Provisions are also made for the election of a vice-president. The Executive Secretary, who is based at United Nations Headquarters, coordinates the day-to-day functions of the Council, and is the liaison to the United Nations system.

5. The Council of Presidents convenes an annual meeting in October/November each year at United Nations Headquarters during the session of the General Assembly. The Council also conducts special meetings away from Headquarters to address specific thematic issues.

IV. Activities

6. The Council of Presidents of the General Assembly conducts research and policy analysis on key global issues, in particular, issues on the agenda of the General Assembly. These policy analyses are widely disseminated internationally as a contribution to global deliberations. Intended activities emanating from this analysis include panel discussions on thematic areas at United Nations Headquarters during the General Assembly session, and at relevant United Nations thematic conferences and summits.

7. The Council of Presidents is also currently formulating the modalities to maximize the utilization of its collective diplomatic experience as an advisory body

to the President-in-Office of the General Assembly in addressing issues on the agenda of the Assembly.

V. Reasons for seeking observer status for the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly

8. The mandate of the Council of Presidents recognizes the constructive role that can be achieved by a formalized framework of regular communication, consultation and action between former Presidents of the General Assembly and the United Nations system towards the enhancement of international public consciousness of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and the positive contribution the former Presidents can make collectively through their accumulated experience, and national and international relationships.

9. The objectives of the Council of Presidents, emanating from its articles of association, are:

- To promote consultation and cooperation between the Council and the principal organs of the United Nations system.
- To serve as a focal point for the continuing supportive involvement of the Council of Presidents in the work and objectives of the General Assembly and to establish a linkage with the Assembly, as appropriate.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status in the General Assembly for the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Considering the unique role that the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly can play in promoting the goals of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to invite the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.